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39-21 (3631D)
PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Jerry R. Ebner, et al.

Art Unit 1623

Serial No. 09/408,323

Filed September 29, 1999

For DEEPLY REDUCED OXIDATION CATALYST AND ITS USE

IN PREPARING N-(PHOSPHONOMETHYL)GLYCINE COMPOUNDS

Examiner L. Maier

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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7/13/01

July 3, 2001

AMENDMENT B

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS,

SIR:

In response to the Office action of January 11, 2001, the time for response to which is extended to July 11, 2001, by the attached payment of the fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), please enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 as follows:

1. (once amended) A process for the preparation of N-(phosphonomethyl)glycine or a salt thereof, the process comprising contacting N-(phosphonomethyl)iminodiacetic acid or a salt thereof with an oxidation catalyst in the presence of oxygen, wherein the catalyst:

comprises a carbon support having a noble metal at a surface of the carbon support; and

is characterized as yielding no more than about 1.2 mmole of carbon monoxide per gram of catalyst when a dry sample of the catalyst, after being heated at a temperature of about 500°C for about 1 hour in a hydrogen atmosphere and before being exposed to an oxidant following the heating in the hydrogen atmosphere, is heated in a helium atmosphere from about 20 to about 900°C at a

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